

The Official Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

HI-Q

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske	VE3JQ
Ray Forslund	VE3EDZ
Ray Greer	VE3CH
Dave Kimpton	VE3AVS
Bill Klemacki	VE3AJ
Bill Roberts	VE3ARN

LARC EXECUTIVE

President: Bob Hansen	VE3RVA 767-6924
Vice-Pres: Mark Vaillant	VA3MVR 935-2205
Secretary: Judy Artist	VA3EAP 345-2218
Treasurer: Jan Sokoloski	VA3JRS 344-3222
Directors: Ed Baumann	VE3SNW 622-1216
Andy Malcolm	VE3INI 345-1858
Maureen Meredith	VA3MOB 344-7868
Pat Pugh	VA3PP 345-8562
Past Pres: Ian Mellis	VA3RIM 577-1628

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT	MOUNT BALDY	147.06	(-600)	FP
VE3TBR	ST. JOSEPH'S	146.820	(-600)	FP
VE3BGA	HILLCREST H.S.	147.390	(+600)	
VE3TBB	UPSALA ONT.	145.470	(-600)	FP

(linked to VE3YQT)

As April comes to a close I wish all the members and their families a Happy Easter. I would like to congratulate Mark **VA3MVR** on winning the gourmet dinner for two at the April meeting.

Field Day, which will be on **June 23/24** is well under way with Mark **VA3MVR** as co-ordinator of this event. Linda **VE3XLB** is still looking for public service volunteers for the following events: **May 7** Salvation Army Drive; **May 12** Run for Women; **May 21** Ten Mile Road Race, and **July 25**, Triathlon. Call Linda at 577-9316 if you can help

I have no activities as yet planned for the LARC meeting May 10. If any member can help please give me a call. Hope to see you at the next LARC meeting.

Your President, Bob **VE3RVA**



The Clutcher

News from RAC.....

RAC is pleased to learn that Jack Tennant **VE3AHZ** of Richmond Hill will be recognized by Emergency Preparedness Canada in Ottawa on April 26th. Jack's recognition is the result of his contributions to the Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario during their in-house disaster response training exercises. When Jack receives this award, he will be sharing with and acknowledging the many other radio amateurs from eastern Ontario and western Quebec who have contributed their time and resources to the training programs at the College.

RAC announces the appointment of Dave E. Reid **VE6BIR** as RAC Awards Manager replacing Russ Wilson **VE6VK**, who recently retired from the position. Dave was first licensed in May of 1961 as **VE2BIR** and has been an active amateur since. He has held calls **VE3EZZ**, **VE4RF**, **VE3OOL** and currently **VE6BIR**. His main interests are casual DX chasing and contesting, much of it done QRP style.

RAC announces the appointment of Leonard Morgan **VE9MY** as RAC National Incoming QSL Manager replacing Jim Irvine **VE9WH** who recently retired from this position. Leonard was first licensed in 1964 and has held callsigns **VO1GT**, **VO1CM**, **VO2AB**, **VE1MY** and **VE9MY** since 1993. He is President of the Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club in Saint John, NB. His interests are contesting, chasing DX, activating and working IOTA and CIA islands.

Another Silent Key.....

The Chronicle Journal – April 03, 2001 Dave Lammers

Employees at a Thunder Bay radio station were "struggling to keep going" yesterday following the death of journalist Peter James (Jim) Symonik (**VE3EDA**). Symonik died in hospital Saturday after suffering a stroke on Thursday. He was 63.

He will be remembered as a man who held things together at CBC Radio "when everyone else was losing their head," reporter Shane Judge said yesterday.

Symonik is survived by his wife Carole and daughters Susan, Sandra and Sharon.

Symonik joined the CBC when the station opened in Thunder Bay 27 years ago. He started out as a CKPR disc jockey on a country and western show in 1958, under the name Peter James. He then worked for four years as an elementary school teacher before joining the CBC. "He was the guy who kept it all together," Judge said, adding Symonik started work at 4 a.m. and rarely missed a day.

Symonik was also a collector of antique radio equipment. "He just loved radio — all aspects of it," Judge noted. Symonik worked mostly as a news editor who prepared the morning broadcasts. He also read the CBC morning news for Northwestern Ontario over the last five years. The radio station received phone calls from across the country yesterday about Symonik. Some came from journalists who worked in Thunder Bay in the past, Judge said. Symonik was born in Fort William and attended Fort William Collegiate high school.

He spent his personal vacations serving as public affairs officer with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve, Lt. Col. Gerry Kosoris recalled. Symonik retired as a major. "There are so many ways to describe him — number one dedicated, down to earth," Kosoris said. "He was very concerned about the welfare of his fellow soldiers." A funeral (was) held Thursday at Jenkens Funeral Home.

On a more personal note.....

When Uncle Jim and myself got together we always talked radio. I think I had rekindled a flame for him about amateur radio. We were going to get Jim and the **VE3EDA** callsign back on the air when he retired. He had talked about some of the gear that he had, and had invited me to come over some time to go through some of his antique gear. He was looking forward to getting some air time on the bands when he no longer had the busy schedule at CBQ ahead of him. I thank him for the many tours around the old and new station at CBQ. He will be sadly missed by his family and by myself.

Fred **VE3FAL**

NOTICE OF LARC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY MAY 10TH AT 1930 HOURS

ROOM 191 CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

Down Memory Lane.....May 1966....only 12
members turned out for election night. "Doc" **VE3FSE** became President, Bill **VE3ARN** Vice-President, Ernie **VE3EFO** Secretary-Treasurer, with Frank **VE3AJ**, Fred **VE3EET** and Bill **VE3EEW** the Directors. Frank **VE3AJ** purchased a 50 foot tower for \$37, which the club had received but had no use for. Bill **VE3EEW** demonstrated a **W9OPO** electronic keyer and Bibrokeyer which Bill assembled. Field Day site was to be at the farm of Frank **VE3AJ**.

Jim **VE3EDA** reported a financial crisis was reached by LARC; it had received a bill for the March banquet for \$412.50 but had little funds left in the bank. This would put the increased cost per person at \$6.88!!!

This'n that.....

- April 12th was declared a "special event" day for ham radio on the International Space Station (ISS). The ARISS team requested the ISS crew to run general QSOs over the major landmasses of earth. April 12th also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin and the 30th anniversary of the first space station.

- The ISS chat room was activated April 8th using packet format. You can check out how to use the chat room at the following web site:

www.marex-na.org (Tks Jim **VE3UA** for info)

- A rather novel twist to domestic radio interference in the UK. Under a new system, ".....complainants having RFI will be charged the equivalent of \$115 (U.S.) if, following an investigation, the interference is found **NOT** to be due to illegal use of radio or faulty equipment, but is due to a problem with the complainant's own TV or radio installation.....". In simple language, if your neighbor lays a formal complaint about your radio creating QRM to telephone, radio, TV etc. but the problem is within their own appliances, they will be fined!!! Thanks to John **VE3WF** for info)

- The 2001 summer edition of the Radio Amateur Callbook CD-ROM will be available May 15th. The amateur callbook has been in existence since 1920. Purchase of this new callbook also allows you access to the website which will contain worldwide changes and updates since publication. A current five dollar discount is available. (Thanks Bob Hughes, Publisher)

-RAC is inviting Canadian amateurs with an interest in HI Radio Contesting to participate in a Canada Headquarters entry in this coming July 2001 IARU HI World Championship. Participants are welcome in any part of Canada, and contestants will be using official RAC callsigns. Check QST April issue for full details Interested parties should QSO Derrick Belbas, VE4VV at:

ve4vv@rac.ca or phone 204-224-2641 before June.

RAC On Air Events.....

April 25 – 27 DX YL to NA YL SSB Contest
April 28 – 29 SP DX RTTY Contest
April 28 – 29 Helvetia Contest
April 28 – 29 Florida QSO Party
April 28 – 29 Nebraska QSO Party
April 28 – 29 Six Club Sprint

Welcome New Hams...

LARC Amateur class students continue to be successful, thanks to Ed **VE3SNW** and others who assist in the classes. The following are new hams:

Stefan Burns (no callsign at press time)

Bernard Welmers VA3BNT

Roy Teniuk (no callsign at press time)

There are still several students due to write this Spring. (Tks Ed **VE3SNW**)

You know spring has sprung when.....

- sensible skiers (**VE3XRC** et al) have packed their skis away for the season
- **VE3AVS** dons a wet suit to ski along the Lake Superior shoreline
- city residents who hate to shovel snow spend a warm spring day shoveling snow off their lawns
 - grass fires (a "rite of passage" for some kids spring up where the snow has melted down

The following may be of interest to QRP do-it-
yourselves (VE3XT et al): More Space stuff.....

From: The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 16 April 20, 2001

First Tuna Tin 2 WAS claimed: When the Tuna Tin 2 low-power transmitter article appeared in QST in 1976 (<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/7605014.pdf>), its author Doug DeMaw, **W1CER** (later **W1FB**), envisioned it as a weekend project that could be used for short-range contacts. Now, a quarter of a century later, a Canadian amateur has claimed the first Tuna Tin 2 Worked All States Award! Steve McDonald, **VE7SL**, got caught up in "Tuna Tin 2 Mania" and bought one of the popular TT2 kits. After working about 30 states with the little rig, WAS suddenly seemed plausible. McDonald realized his dream several months later when he turned in his cards for WAS. All contacts for the award had been completed while he was running about 400 mW from a Tuna Tin 2. As far as the ARRL awards folks know, this marked the first time WAS was achieved with a Tuna Tin 2--although there is no special endorsement for having done so. "Doug DeMaw knew in his heart that the rig would be useful and popular, but I don't think he ever envisioned that this little transmitter would still be working its QRP magic over 25 years after it first appeared in the pages of QST," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, **W1RFI**--himself a QRP and TT2 aficionado who has promoted the Tuna Tin 2 Revival and was McDonald's Connecticut contact for WAS. Congratulations to **VE7SL** on a tremendous operating accomplishment.--Ed Hare, **W1RFI**

Other signs of spring in Thunder Bay

- the newspaper has a photo of the captain of the first ship into port being presented with a top hat (which he must turn in after the photo shoot!)
- kids take their skates **off** now to play road hockey
- "**eau de canine**" arises from city walkways, which some dog owners consider their private dumping grounds!

HOW DO I GET AN ARISS QSL?

QSL cards are similar to postcards. Hams exchange QSLs to confirm their radio contacts with other stations. Participating in ARISS is an exhilarating experience. But waiting for that coveted QSL card requires patience. Designing a card for the ultimate Dxpedition is a lengthy process. Once the cards are printed, RAC forwards them to the Amateur Radio club managing the QSLs.

Send your QSL cards or reports to one of the following addresses.

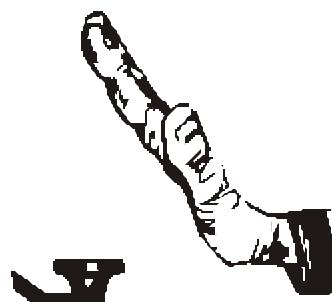
For the USA :

ARRL Headquarters
ARISS QSL Expedition-2
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA

For Canada :

Radio Amateurs of Canada
ARISS QSL Expedition-2
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
Ottawa Ontario
K1G 0Z5

Please include your QSL or report: date, time in UTC, frequency and mode (voice, packet or sstv). If you wish to receive a card, you must include a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope with proper postage or sufficient IRCs included. (Tks Jim **VE3UA** for forwarding)



The Slapper

IRLP.....

Internet Radio Linking Project is coming to Thunder Bay. A few of us local amateurs have gotten together and have rounded up necessary equipment to run what we call a IRLP node in Thunder Bay. The interface broad and software were installed about 10 days ago and we got it up and running. I'm running it in a sort of test mode on receive 147.96 and transmit 147.36, its just happens to be a set of crystals I had. The final phase is to link it to one of the repeaters in town so that everyone can access it. Basically what it is a way to link repeaters in other areas together using the Internet, analog audio from radio is converted to a digital stream and sent though the internet to other end and then converted back to analog audio to a radio system on other end. There are now 78 nodes so far set up and by using dtmf tones they can be linked up to our repeater. So far we are very impressed with the way it works, but keep in mind this is just another way to communicate with other amateurs.

Another plus is that this system is designed by a Canadian amateur **VE7LTD** Dave Cameron in Vancouver. As soon as we have it linked I will email the access codes to Dave **VE3AVS** and ask him to forward to all on the LARC members lists, and those that don't have email we try to arrange hard copies. For more information go www.irlp.net and check out. This is just a quick update and I will try to have a more detail description of the system for next month HiQ.

Terry **VA3LU** (Tks very much Terry....Ed.)

Web Sites of interest.....

The editor was emailed a large variety of sites to check out and share with the readers this month. Most were of some interest to amateurs, but a few were inaccessible for one reason or another. Here they are:

www.qth.com/antenna/ the "Elmer Hamlet" site....featuring free software, on-line Morse , antenna designer, etc.

www.myerseng.com/download.html educational freeware, evaluation of arrays, catalog of antennas available, etc.

www.owenduffy.com.au/electronics/gamma.htm
Gamma match design/construction details by **VK1CAE**

www.geocities/alibhernlem/Radio/regens.html

Pictures, diagram and parts list for regenerative receiver (**VE3AJ** take note of bottom corner of surplus receiver shown in photo!!!)
(Tks Wayne **VA3WRL** for the above sites)

www.qsl.net/ve3fal/ Fred's nifty homepage

www.artscipub.com/specialoffers/ on-screen order form for repeater map book and other publications

www.artscipub.com/repeaters/ repeater database (with rather limited data...Ed.)
(Tks Jan **VA3JRS** for these two sites)

More this'n that.....

Susan Helms was active on voice from ISS 190 UTC on April 23rd.

The public was kind to Susan and did not over load her too much. She worked several beginners in the eastern half of the U.S.A. Transmit frequency 144.490 and receive 145.800. She is a beginner at working "pile-ups" on the ham band, so be kind. She is trying to get used to the ham jargon, CQ and QRZ. And she is getting good at it.

So here are a few tips to follow:

1. Wait for her to say CQ or QRZ.
2. If she is talking to someone else, please wait For CQ or QRZ.
3. When you call her speak slowly and say you call with each transmission followed by OVER.
4. Good luck, and remember she is still learning let's make it easy for her. (Tks Jim **VE3UA** for forward).

The Controversy over CW continues.....

James Wades, **WB8SIW**, writes we must understand the "real" reasons for a lack of growth in the Amateur Service. The time has come to challenge many of the assumptions made by the leadership and rank-and file members.

Assumption #1. "CW is keeping young people out of our hobby. If we don't eliminate it, well....." No one has yet proven this (false) assumption.

James feels there is no doubt that CW keeps some out of the hobby, but so do technical exams and radio theory. He claims that while attending a large number of Amateur Radio demonstrations, which involved phone, digital and radiotelegraph stations, children have walked past SSB and digital operations, paying little attention. Yet the same kids have gone right up to the fascinating "dots and dashes" of a CW operator.

Talking into a microphone , a handheld radio or typing on a computer is no longer a unique experience for today's youth. They are too commonplace and may actually work against attracting youngsters to the hobby.

Assumption #2. "Greater numbers will preserve our frequencies....we need numbers to insure access to the valuable RF spectrum".

James says simply attracting large numbers to a variation on Family Radio Service doesn't cut it. We need quality individuals who will invest their time and effort in technical innovation and public service.

Assumption #3. "CW is obsolete and of little value". Another false assumption. CW overcomes language barriers around the world. CW is spectrum efficient, allowing reliable communications for a given amount of power. CW equipment is simple and inexpensive, making it ideal for amateurs in developing countries (and new hams). James claims further that CW is itself an art form.

(This is only a brief introduction to James' well-written and researched article in Radioworld. It makes interesting reading.....Ed.)

Erratum....Martin DeHoop, a silent key, was incorrectly identified as not being an LARC member. In fact, Martin was a member for the current year. (Thanks Jan VA3JRS).

Computer Skills (or lack of...)

1. Compaq is considering changing the command "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.
2. A confused caller to IBM was having troubles printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find the printer." The user had also tried

turning the computer screen to face the printer but that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer.

3.Another IBM customer had troubles installing software and rang for support. "I put in the first disk and that was OK. It said to put in the second disk, and I had some problems with the disk. When it said to put in the third disk, I couldn't even fit it in." The user hadn't realized that "Insert Disk 2" meant to remove Disk 1 first!

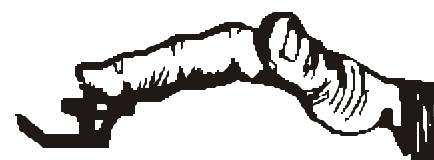
While on the subject of CW, the FISTS (ask FAL who this is) Spring Sprint us coming on the second Saturday of May. These are low-pressure short events, only four hours in length, 1700 – 2100Z. The exchange is first name, RST U.S. State/Canadian Province/DXCC country, and FISTS number. If you don't have a FISTS number, simply substitute your power output. More information can be found at:

<www.fists.org>

April Radioworld also has an excellent article on the tuning-2, plus 1, with schematic diagram. QSO Dave VE3AVS is you need more information.

Editor's ink.....

This is the second edition of HI-Q put into Adobe 4.0 format. I assume the few problems reader encountered last month have been solved. Please keep the articles coming, especially the local events and happenings, technical and otherwise. Sometimes just a few lines will help fill out the issue. Tks es 73 de dave ve3avs



The Hitchhiker

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
Held in Room 191, Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario
April 12, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 by the President VE3RVA, Bob Hansen with 22 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a roundtable of members and guests introducing themselves including student (and new member) Roy Teniuk and Bernard Wilmers VA3BND (his new call sign).

Silent Keys: A moment of silence was observed in memory of VE3KRM, Martin DeHoop and VE3EDA, Jim Symonik.

HF Report - VE3RVA, Bob Hansen reported on transmission on HF and a roundtable followed from members also reporting on their activities. VA3LU, Terry Stewardson reported on the Internet Relay Linking Project which is being tested.

Minutes of the Meeting held on March 8, 2001:

The minutes of the meeting held on March 8, 2001 were published in detail in the March issue of the **Hi-Q** and distributed to all members.

Motion: moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VA3BRN, Gerry Burney that the minutes be accepted as distributed.

Carried.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of February 28, 2001	\$ 2,986.37
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Income:	25.00
50/50	0.05
Bank Interest	150.00
Class Fee	100.00
Donation	748.00
Larc Annual Dinner	245.00
Membership Dues	58.54
Income (unassigned)	<u>1,326.59</u>

Expenses:	2.13
Administration	735.86
Annual Dinner	1.00
Bank SC	120.00
Licence	40.37
Telephone	940.83
Repeater Maintenance	<u>1,840.19</u>

Balance as of March 31, 2001	\$ 2,472.77
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Motion: Moved by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki and seconded by VA3LU, Terry Stewardson that the Treasurers Report be accepted.

Carried.

Committee Reports: VE3INI, Andy Malcolm reported that he is working on YQT, as the phone patch is not working.

AREs: VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred has emailed callout sheets and has a few hard copies for those who don't have email. Please send changes, if any, to Randy as soon as possible.

Public Service: VE3XLB, Linda Bell arranged for net control and drivers for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal pick-up on May 7th, 2001.

- May 12, Run For Women, 4 or 5 operators needed
- May 21, Ten Mile Road Race, operators needed

Field Day: June 23 and 24th, 2001 - VA3MVR, Mark Valliant reported everything in place and ready to go.

Old Business: VE3RVA, Bob Hansen has booked the Annual Dinner Meeting at the Slovak Legion February 16, 2002.

- Club Equipment, please continue to send any information to VA3EAP, Judy Artist for updated list

New Business: VE3RVA, Bob Hansen informed the club of Swapfest 2001, to be held at the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club, Saturday May 5th, 2001

50/50 and Dinner Draw: Winner of 50/50 draw was VE3MPT, Manuel Migueis. Winner of the gift certificate, dinner for two at the Travelodge was VA3MVR, Mark Valliant.

Adjournment: Moved by VA3LU, Terry Stewardson that meeting be adjourned.

Guest Speaker: VE3INI, Andy Malcolm gave a very interesting presentation on PSK31, the **Arave** that is making an impact on the world of hobby communications.

P.S. Your editor acknowledges and thanks Bill VE3AJ for the collection of Morse key drawings.

(That's it for this issue, a total of 7 pages...Ed.)